

NEWSBRIEF



Date: December 31, 2015

To: Council & Senior Staff

Turn the page for a list of what's included in this packet.

(Items are alphabetized)

1. Crystal Arrest and Crime Activity Reports (Dec. 23 – Dec. 30, 2015)
2. Minnesota House of Representatives Rep. Lyndon Carlson Sr. (45A) – Legislative Update
3. News from Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins (Jan. 2016)
4. Northwest Community Television Spotlight (Jan. Feb. 2016)
5. Phase 15 Twin Oaks Park Street Reconstruction Open House (Jan. 14, 2016)
6. SunPost articles:
 - a. Rotarians give back
 - b. Crystal and Robbinsdale's year in review
 - c. Start Reading Now works to grow students' bookshelves
7. Swearing In Ceremony (Jan. 19, 2016)

Crystal Arrest Report

Date Range: 12/23/2015 06:00:00 AM - 12/30/2015 06:00:00 AM

<u>Case Nbr</u>	<u>Juv</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date Arrested</u>
CYAR15-030509	N	SORIA	DAVID		M	36	12/25/2015 12:02 AM
		Address: HOMELESS		MINNEAPOLIS	MN		
		Statute: 609-53-1	STOLEN PROPERTY-POSSESSING/RECEIVING-FE				
CYAR15-030509	N	SORIA	DAVID		M	36	12/25/2015 12:02 AM
		Address: HOMELESS		MINNEAPOLIS	MN		
		Statute: 151-40-1	CONT SUBST-POSS-HYPODERMIC NEEDLE				
CYAR15-030509	N	SORIA	DAVID		M	36	12/25/2015 12:02 AM
		Address: HOMELESS		MINNEAPOLIS	MN		
		Statute: 171-24-3	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER CANCELLATION				
CYAR15-030509	N	SORIA	DAVID		M	36	12/25/2015 12:02 AM
		Address: HOMELESS		MINNEAPOLIS	MN		
		Statute: MISWA	MISC OFCR WARRANT ARREST				
CYAR15-030509	N	RUCKER	KARLOTTA	JEAN	F	38	12/25/2015 12:02 AM
		Address: 1519 OAK PARK AV N		MINNEAPOLIS	MN	55411	
		Statute: MISWA	MISC OFCR WARRANT ARREST				
CYAR15-030567	N	PERSAUD	RACHEL	SAVITA	F	19	12/25/2015 9:06 PM
		Address: 1716 EMERSON AV N		MINNEAPOLIS	MN	55411	
		Statute: 152-025-2-1	CONT SUBST-POSSESS SCHED I, II, III OR IV - FELONY				
CYAR15-030567	N	PERSAUD	RACHEL	SAVITA	F	19	12/25/2015 9:06 PM
		Address: 1716 EMERSON AV N		MINNEAPOLIS	MN	55411	
		Statute: 152-027-3	CONT SUBST-POSS-MARIJUANA IN MV				
CYAR15-030743	N	ANDERSEN	ANGELA	MARGARET	F	34	12/28/2015 1:55 AM
		Address: 3512 ADAIR AV N		CRYSTAL	MN	55422	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-1	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE				
CYAR15-030743	N	ANDERSEN	ANGELA	MARGARET	F	34	12/28/2015 1:55 AM
		Address: 3512 ADAIR AV N		CRYSTAL	MN	55422	
		Statute: 169A-20-1-5	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08 OR MORE W/ 2 HOURS				

End of Report



CRYSTAL POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA REPORT

CASE ACTIVITY: Previous 7 Days prior to

December 30, 2015 - 12:00:00 AM

CASE NO	LOCATION	OFFENSE	VALUE	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	DATE OCCURRED
CY15-030776	56 AV N&WEST BROADWAY	ACC-MOTOR VEHICLE PROPERTY DAMAGE	NA	NA	12/28/2015 13:10
CY15-030780	47 AV N&XENIA AV N	ACC-MOTOR VEHICLE PROPERTY DAMAGE	NA	NA	12/28/2015 15:35
CY15-030567	42 AV N&WEST BROADWAY	CONT SUBST-POSS OR SELL-SMALL AMT	NA	NA	12/25/2015 20:55
CY15-030790	36 AV N&ADAIR AV N	CONT SUBST-POSS OR SELL-SMALL AMT	NA	NA	12/28/2015 19:19
CY15-030567	42 AV N&WEST BROADWAY	CONT SUBST-POSSESS SCHED I, II, III OR IV -	NA	NA	12/25/2015 20:55
CY15-030509	HWY 100&HWY 55	CONT SUBST-POSS-HYPODERMIC NEEDLE	NA	NA	12/24/2015 23:54
CY15-030567	42 AV N&WEST BROADWAY	CONT SUBST-POSS-MARIJUANA IN MV	NA	NA	12/25/2015 20:55
CY15-030399	27 HAMPSHIRE AV N	JUV	NA	NA	12/23/2015 00:00
CY15-030509	HWY 100&HWY 55	MISC OFCR WARRANT ARREST	NA	NA	12/24/2015 23:54
CY15-030509	HWY 100&HWY 55	STOLEN	NA	NA	12/24/2015 23:54
CY15-030509	HWY 100&HWY 55	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER CANCELLATION	NA	NA	12/24/2015 23:54
CY15-030790	36 AV N&ADAIR AV N	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER SUSPENSION	NA	NA	12/28/2015 19:19
CY15-030369	CORVALLIS AV N&WEST	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08	NA	NA	12/23/2015 01:10
CY15-030743	52 WEST BROADWAY	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08	NA	NA	12/28/2015 01:45
CY15-030369	CORVALLIS AV N&WEST	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE	NA	NA	12/23/2015 01:10
CY15-030743	52 WEST BROADWAY	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE	NA	NA	12/28/2015 01:45
CY15-030790	36 AV N&ADAIR AV N	TRAF-FAIL TO OBEY TRAFFIC CONTROL	NA	NA	12/28/2015 19:19
CY15-030790	36 AV N&ADAIR AV N	WEAPON-CARRY WEAPON W/O PERMIT	NA	NA	12/28/2015 19:19

End of Report

From: rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2015 3:16 PM
To: Announcements from Representative Lyndon Carlson
Subject: Season's Greetings from Rep. Lyndon Carlson

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Rep. Lyndon Carlson Sr. (45A) - Legislative Update



* 283 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King
Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155
651-296-4255

Dear neighbors,
As we close the year 2015 and we move into 2016, I wish you a prosperous new year! Please don't hesitate to contact me with your thoughts about priorities for 2016. I wish you and your family and friends a peaceful and joyous holiday season, and the very best for 2016. Thank you for the honor of serving our community.
Sincerely,
Lyndon Carlson
State Representative

E-mail:
rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn

Legislative Assistant:
Lill Pohlkamp 651-296-9552

Committee Assignments:
DFL-Lead: [Ways and Means](#)
[State Government Finance](#)
[Taxes](#)

Biographical Information:
Home: Crystal 8216 - 35th Ave.
N., 55427; 763-533-9779
Occupation: Retired teacher
Education: B.S., social studies,
graduate work, Minnesota State
University, Mankato and
University of St. Thomas
Elected: 1972
Term: 22nd
Family: Married, spouse Carole,
3 children

News Items

[Legislative Update: Budget Outlook Improves](#) - (Posted: Dec 4 2015 5:27PM)
[RELEASE: Minnesota Budget Surplus Grows to \\$1.87 billion -](#)
(Posted: Dec 3 2015 3:15PM)
[Happy Thanksgiving!](#) - (Posted: Nov 25 2015 2:36PM)

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Anne Norris

From: Commissioner Linda Higgins, District 2 [Commissioner_Linda_Higgins_2nd_District@service.govdelivery.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 11:26 AM
To: Anne Norris
Subject: January 2016 News and Events from Commissioner Linda Higgins



News from Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins

JANUARY 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Top stories](#)
- [Board news](#)
- [Events](#)

WORKING AT HENNEPIN COUNTY

Hennepin County is a great place to work!

[Browse open positions](#) or sign up to receive [job notification](#) emails from the county

Browse [current library openings](#).

CONTACTS

[Linda Higgins](#)
Commissioner, District 2
612-348-7882
www.hennepin.us/higgins

[Tina Sanz](#)
Principal Aide
612-348-5335

[Roshonda Royston](#)

Happy New Year 2016! May your new year be healthy, prosperous, and filled with love and joy.

Don't forget: Don't drink and drive. Take a cab or, Metro Transit has partnered up with Miller Lite and J.J. Taylor Distributing Company of MN, Inc. to offer [free rides on New Year's Eve](#)! No fares, no coupons – just hop on any Metro Transit bus or light-rail train from 6 p.m. tonight through 3 a.m. on January 1. Celebrate safely and take Metro Transit to and from your New Year's Eve festivities!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Higgins".

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page](#).

Top stories

2016 Hennepin budget reflects service demands, initiatives in child protection, elections

The Hennepin County Board voted December 15 to approve the county's 2016 budget of \$1.9 billion. The budget includes a property tax levy of \$726.8 million, an increase of 4.48 percent over 2015. The budget reflects increasing service demands across the county.

Administrative Secretary
612-348-3526

You can also send
comments via my
[feedback form](#).

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

For past issues of my
monthly newsletter, visit
my webpage.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

District 2 serves the cities
of [Golden Valley](#),
[Medicine Lake](#), north and
northeast [Minneapolis](#),
southeast [Plymouth](#) and
[St. Anthony](#).



[View larger map](#)

MORE COUNTY INFO

[County departments,
agencies and other
entities](#)

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officials](#)

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libraries](#)

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Medical Center](#)

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[Online services](#)

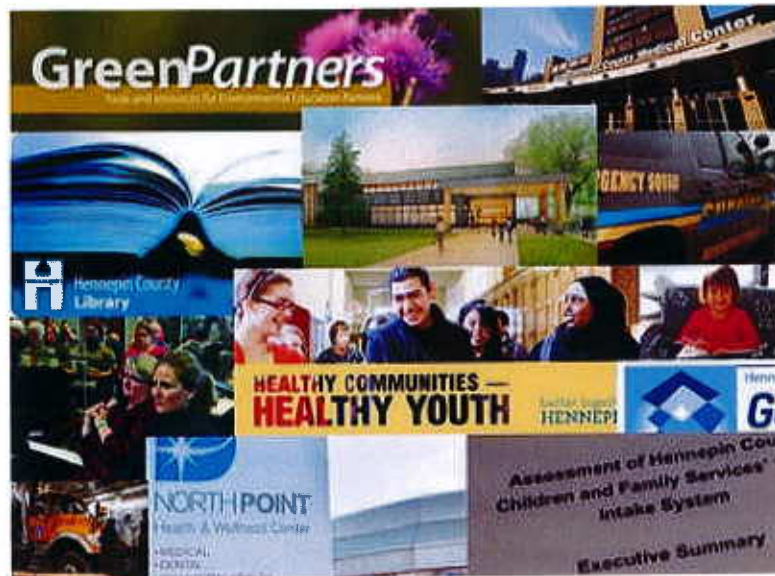
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Some elements of the 2016 budget include:

Child protection

A plan to improve the safety of children in the county includes increasing critical staff and reexamining current work practices.

Elections

The county is updating existing voting equipment in preparation for national and local elections in 2016.

Self-sufficiency and workforce initiatives

As baby boomer-age employees retire, the Career Connections program identifies, trains and hires qualified candidates for gateway county positions with opportunities for additional education and advancement. County officials are committed to sharing best practices with other employers in the region.

Workforce competitiveness

The county and AFSCME, its largest union, have agreed on a series of contracts, reflected in the budget, continues to incorporate competitive compensation and benefits. They include an enhanced tuition reimbursement program, paid parental leave, progressive health and life insurance and a new salary minimum of at least \$15 per hour. The measures are part of a larger effort to maintain Hennepin County's status as an employer of choice in the region, and to maintain a high level of customer service to taxpayers.

Property tax levy

The increase in this year's property tax levy follows several years of nearly flat increases. With this budget, Hennepin County's property tax levy has increased by an average of 1.67 percent per

year over the past five years.

The budget demonstrates a commitment to solid fiscal priorities and responsibilities that remain evident in more than three decades of AAA bond ratings, according to Hennepin County Board Chair Jan Callison.

"As commissioners, we understand the enormous responsibility to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money," Callison said. "I'm proud of the work we've done over the past several months, culminating in the adoption of a budget that shows our commitment to serving residents, improving lives and continuing to attract and retain a talented workforce."

The budget adoption follows more than six months of budget preparation and hearings focused on the county's continued commitment to help residents to be healthy, protected and safe, self-reliant, assured due process and mobile.

Learn more

For more information about the Hennepin County budget, visit www.hennepin.us.



Hearing set for Blue Line Extension (Bottineau) preliminary design plans

On January 19, 2016, the Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority will hold a joint

public hearing at 6 p.m. for municipal approval of preliminary design plans for the Blue Line Extension (Bottineau) Light Rail Transit. The meeting will be held at Hennepin County's Minneapolis Central Library at 300 Nicollet Mall, Pohl Hall, in Minneapolis. The meeting will follow a public open house beginning at 5 p.m.

By early March 2016, the five corridor cities and the county would need to act on plans for their jurisdictions. Each city and the county will announce the dates, times and locations of their municipal consent meetings on their websites.

[Learn more about the Blue Line Extension municipal consent process.](#)



Services for people with disabilities

Hennepin's services help people with disabilities live in their communities as independently as possible.

Starting with disability screenings and information sessions on community resources and county, state and federal programs, Hennepin County can then help with short term service planning and ongoing case management.

The Community Informational Sessions for Seniors and People with Disabilities booklet has been updated with new dates, times and locations. *These sessions are free and open to the public.*

Community Informational Sessions are offered as a continuing effort to keep families, clients and providers informed about service options and application processes. Please visit [services for people with disabilities](#) for more information.



Yushica Bryant
Program graduate

Video link via [Hennepin County](#).

Hennepin County Career Connections – Working for Hennepin

I am proud to say that Hennepin County is changing hiring practices to better reflect the work that employees do and services our county residents need. Through the Career Connections program, the county and its partners guide people onto career paths that include training, work experience and professional support once people are hired.

Jobs will be available in several areas, including human services, information technology, health care, public works, customer service and public safety.

Candidates can train for a good job while setting up for a great future. With PPL's human services training program, candidates build computer and professional skills to prepare for positions

such as human services representative while getting hands-on experience through an internship with Hennepin County. Candidates also earn credits from MCTC upon completion, giving a head start on future academic and professional goals.

Eligibility requirements include: a High School diploma or GED; strong computer skills; excellent customer service skills; multi-tasking abilities in demanding environments. To apply, start by attending a one-hour information session held every Monday at 9 a.m. at the PPL Learning Center.

For more information about Career Connections, [training programs](#) and Hennepin County, visit hennepin.us/jobs/career-connections or call 612-348-7473.

Hennepin named "Bicycle Friendly Community"

Hennepin County is the first Minnesota county to receive Bicycle Friendly Community silver status from the League of American Bicyclists.



"This award acknowledges how far Hennepin County has come in the past 25 years," said Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin. "We couldn't have dreamed of this much progress even a few years ago. Our residents benefit from a robust bicycle network within Hennepin County that also connects to our neighboring counties. We are fortunate to live in a bicycling county and a bicycling region."

Regional trails in Hennepin County had more than 8.1 million trail visits in 2014 and more than 8 million visits in 2013. Also, 1.8 percent of commuters primarily biked to work in 2013. This compares to 0.8 percent across Minnesota and 0.6 percent nationwide. The bicycle network includes buffered bike lanes, cycle tracks and trails connecting the entire county.

Residents and visitors enjoy 651 miles of on-and off-street bikeways in Hennepin County.

Hennepin County will continue to improve bicycling conditions by making the system safer and more comfortable for all ages and abilities, while continuing to expand the bikeway network.

Visit www.hennepin.us/ridehennepin for the Hennepin County bike map and riding tips.

CIVIL & RIGHT

ARE YOU LIVING THE DREAM?

26th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Breakfast to feature Governor Deval Patrick

The General Mills Foundation and The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) are pleased to present the 26th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Breakfast. The breakfast is an opportunity to celebrate Dr. King's legacy of service and be inspired to live out his dream today in our homes, the community and throughout the world.

This year's keynote speaker is Deval Patrick, former Governor of Massachusetts and Civil Rights Leader. He will provide powerful messages on this year's theme: "Civil and Right."

There will also be entertainment this year with guests Voice of Culture and Steven Daniels and Shiloh Baptist Church. Tickets and further information are at mlkbreakfast.com.

New Suburb to Suburb transit service connects Plymouth, Maple Grove, Hopkins, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, and Shakopee

Route 494 is aimed at increasing access to major employment and commercial centers throughout the Twin Cities western suburbs.



The first ever Suburb to Suburb transit service will be available to commuters in the cities of Plymouth, Maple Grove, Hopkins, Eden Prairie and Shakopee beginning Jan. 19.

Route 494 will offer commuters the opportunity to ride the bus between Shakopee's Marschall Road Transit Station and Plymouth's Station 73, with connecting service to and from the Maple Grove Transit Station. The initiative is funded by the Minnesota Legislature and facilitated by the Suburban Transit Association. The route is designed to demonstrate the success of express bus service between suburbs.

The service plan includes 20 trips operating about every 30 minutes, in both northbound and southbound directions during the morning and afternoon peak periods.

A local peak fare of \$2.25 per trip will be charged on this demonstration route. Transfers to local or other routes may include an additional fee. All buses will be equipped with regional fare equipment and will accept Go-To cards, Metropass, tokens, Stored Value cards and cash. Change is not available. To obtain a schedule, call MVTA at 952-882-7500 or visit s2s494.com.



Be snow savvy on winter roads

Heading to work or school in the morning, it's likely you will travel on a county road. Hennepin County has more than 570 miles of them. Some you might know simply by their number; others you may know as Broadway, Lowry or Winnetka Avenues.

Keeping these county roads safe during the winter is our priority. Plow drivers get regular refreshers in training and do dry runs of their routes in the fall. When winter weather arrives, our primary goal is to get lanes passable. We have 66 plow routes to cover all 2,200 lane miles of county roads. During a typical storm, we are out clearing and de-icing starting around 2 a.m. in order to help with a safe morning commute.

Working in shifts, our snow and ice removal team will stay active until roads are clear. Then comes post-storm clean up, when we work to clear everything from guardrail to shoulder. All in all, it can be a nearly continuous effort for several days, and – in some instances – almost daily for weeks.

You have a role to play, too.

- Plan ahead for snow days – give yourself extra time.
- Know the road.
- Be patient – slow down and give plows room to work.
- Never use cruise control.
- Remember, just because a road is plowed, doesn't mean it's okay to speed up. The de-icing materials crews on the road need time to work. Learn more at www.hennepin.us/plowing.



Reminder: sign up for snow alerts...

... in [Minneapolis](#), [Golden Valley](#), and [Plymouth](#). [St. Anthony](#) mandates that residents are not allowed to park on any street for a period of 48 hours, beginning immediately after two inches or more of continuous snow fall. Don't get towed!



Golden Valley announces retirement of Chief Stacy Carlson and new Chief Jason Sturgis

The City of Golden Valley has announced that Golden Valley Police Chief Stacy Carlson will retire December 31, 2015, and will be succeeded by current Police Commander Jason Sturgis, who will take the helm January 1, 2016.

Carlson served Golden Valley as police chief for eight years. Chief Carlson expressed gratitude for "the tremendous support the community shows the police department."

Jason Sturgis joined the Golden Valley Police Department in 2004, and has held positions of progressive leadership as patrol sergeant, detective sergeant, patrol lieutenant, and police commander.

See the full story at goldenvalleymn.gov.

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Board news

December 1

Solid Waste Enterprise Fund grants expand recycling opportunities in public spaces

The board awarded eight grants totaling \$97,786 to improve recycling in public spaces. Grants were awarded to the cities of Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Minneapolis, New Hope, St. Bonifacius, St. Louis Park and Tonka Bay and the University of Minnesota. The projects will add recycling receptacles to parks and high-traffic pedestrian routes and expand organics collections programs. The public space recycling program, established in 2014, provides a financial incentive to municipalities and public entities to explore new opportunities to reduce, reuse, recycle or compost waste. Up to \$100,000 from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, which is funded by fees that waste haulers pay to dispose of garbage generated by residents and businesses in the county, is available annually for these grants.

[Learn more about the county's public space recycling grants.](#)

Negotiations authorized for Southwest Light Rail trail crossings

The board authorized negotiations with the Metropolitan Council to fund three trail grade-separated crossings adjacent to the Southwest LRT (METRO Green Line Extension) route, in Hopkins and St. Louis Park. Construction of the three trail grade-separated crossings will be incorporated and move forward as part of the METRO Green Line Extension project. The county will contribute up to \$2.6 million. Three Rivers Park District will reimburse Hennepin County \$1.1 million for its share of the local construction costs.

[Learn more about the proposed trail crossing projects.](#)

Three Rivers Park District 2016 budget approved

The board reviewed and approved the Three Rivers Park District superintendent's proposed \$35.9 million operating budget for 2016. The proposed budget reflects an increase of 3.45 percent from 2015. The total budgeted property tax levy including debt service is about \$41.5 million, an increase of 0.66 percent over last year.

[Learn more about the Three Rivers Park District budget.](#)

Sentencing to Service Homes program contracts approved

The board approved two contracts for the Sentencing to Service Homes program effective January 1 to December 31, 2016. This construction and carpenter training program will receive as much as \$225,000 from Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation (GMHC) and as much as \$140,000 from Three Rivers Park District, for STS Homes work crews to assist with home rehabilitation, new home construction and other construction related projects for both organizations. STS Homes has partnered with GMHC since 2007 and with Three Rivers Park District since 2004. Program participants are men and women, primarily Hennepin County residents, who are incarcerated in Minnesota Correctional Facilities such as Lino Lakes and Stillwater, or who are on probation in Hennepin County and participating in the Summit Academy OIC Rehabilitation Technician Program. They are expected to be ready for pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, or union-scale jobs once they complete the program.

[Learn more about the STS Homes program.](#)

December 15

Plans move forward for joint youth residential treatment facility with Ramsey County

The County Board agreed to proceed with plans for a joint Hennepin-Ramsey County residential youth treatment center. Two existing residential treatment centers, at the

Hennepin County Home School and Ramsey County's Boys Totem Town, are in need of significant ongoing preservation and maintenance efforts. For the past 18 months, the counties have worked toward creating a joint facility replacement. The next phase will:

- Complete facility pre-design with an architectural consultant
- Finalize site requirements, develop site option descriptions and finalize site selection
- Finalize capacity, scope and staffing needs
- Complete project construction, project cost estimates and update project schedule
- Draft cooperative agreement and develop projected operating budget
- Arrange capital funding

The cost for a facility pre-design is expected to exceed \$50,000, to be shared equally between Hennepin and Ramsey Counties. Once a consultant has been identified, further approval will be sought from the respective county boards. This phase is expected to be accomplished in 12 to 14 months, at which time staff will be ready to seek final Board approval to begin the construction process of the joint facility.

[Learn more about the joint treatment facility.](#)

Regional Railroad Authority budget approved

The county approved a \$63 million budget for the Regional Railroad Authority. The budget supports the following priority projects:

- The Southwest Light Rail Transit requires \$33.1 million – as the project completes engineering and moves to construction
- The Bottineau Light Rail Transit requires \$12.33 million as the project completes the project development phase and moves toward engineering
- The Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit requires \$2.67 million for project development and property acquisition purposes
- The Hiawatha Light Rail requires \$2.89 million for debt service
- The 2016 HCRRA budget includes \$11.96 million for maintenance of the 55 miles of corridor and staff support for transitways and oversight of HCRRA's infrastructure assets and operational needs.

[Learn more about the Regional Railroad Authority's 2016 budget.](#)

Labor agreements set three-year contracts, minimum AFSCME wage at \$15 an hour

The board approved six labor agreements with AFSCME Council 5, various locals. The three-year agreements cover approximately 4,000 employees from the clerical, social services, probation/parole, legal, adult corrections and professional units. Prominent provisions of this agreement include modifications to wages and differential pay, merit steps, market adjustments, health insurance and the union dental plan. The agreements also ensure that members of the county's largest union are paid a minimum of \$15 an hour.

The agreements reflect that everything we do each day is dependent on our greatest asset - the dedicated, skilled and hardworking Hennepin County staff that deliver a multitude of critical services.

[Learn about the labor agreements with AFSCME.](#)

Youth Sports Program grants will fund playgrounds, sports facilities

The County Board awarded 39 Youth Sports Grants for projects throughout Hennepin County, including a \$200,000 facilities project for a new adaptive softball field and universal access playground in Plymouth and \$150,000 to remodel and install new equipment at the North High School fitness center. The board approved 14 large facilities projects in the amount of \$1,815,000, and 25 small equipment grants totaling \$125,000, including four glass basketball blackboards for indoor courts at Sandburg Learning Center, portable soccer goals at Edison High School, and baseball, badminton and track and field equipment at North High School. The Hennepin Youth Sports Grant program provides substantial support to local communities throughout the county.

[Search the list of 2016 Youth Sports Grant projects.](#)

Grant offers program oversight for people in long-term homelessness

The board agreed to accept a \$5.7 million two-year grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services to oversee supportive housing programs for people who have experienced long-term homelessness, and families who are at risk of long-term homelessness. Hennepin County has been designated as lead agency and fiscal agency for a multi-county collaboration. As part of the ongoing plan to end long-term homelessness, the county will work with St. Paul-based Hearth Connection to provide supports across county boundaries, training to service providers, client monitoring and tracking, data collection and reporting and connections for clients to permanent supportive housing.

[Learn about the supportive housing proposal.](#)

Study to assess contracted food support programs

The board agreed to support a study of current contracted food support programs, to look for opportunities for increased

efficiency, effectiveness and maximum accessibility. Currently, the county works with six providers that provide emergency food support; in all, 80 programs provide food support in the county. The Human Services Department will report back to the board with recommendations by July 1, 2016.

[Learn more about the food support study.](#)

Hearing set for Blue Line Extension preliminary design plans

The board established a joint public hearing with the Metropolitan Council and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, for municipal approval of preliminary design plans for the Blue Line Extension (Bottineau) Light Rail Transit. The hearing will be held Tuesday, January 19, 6 p.m., at Hennepin County Library—Minneapolis Central, 300 Nicollet Mall. The hearing will be preceded by a public open house beginning at 5 p.m. (see story above).

[Learn more about the Blue Line Extension hearing.](#)

Information about County board meetings - including agendas, minutes, and viewing information - is online at hennepin.us/your-government/leadership/county-board-meetings.

Look for more news on the Hennepin County website at hennepin.us/news.

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Events

St. Anthony

- **Thursday, January 14 through Saturday, January 16, 7pm and Sunday, January 17, 4pm**
"Terra Nova." Staged outside in a performance tent. Winter theatre experience, about discovery and courage in Antarctica, tells the story of Robert Falcon Scott's journey to the South Pole in 1911-1912. \$25. For tickets, visit heronowtheatre.org or call 612-789-2087.
St. Anthony Village Central Park
3400 Silver Lake Road, St. Anthony

Northeast

- **Thursday, December 31, 9pm**
New Years Eve 80's Disco Ball. Dj dance party, drink specials, complimentary champagne and more. Free disco danger sleigh rides from 9pm-10pm. For tickets, visit dangernye.brownpapertickets.com.
Betty Danger's Country Club
2501 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis
- **Tuesday, January 12, 7pm**
[Winter Choir Concert](#). Free.
Edison High School Auditorium

700 22nd Avenue NE, Minneapolis

- **Wednesday, January 13, 7pm**
[Band Concert](#). Free.
Edison High School Auditorium
700 22nd Avenue NE, Minneapolis
- **Saturday, January 16, 10am-2pm**
Northeast Winter Market. Local food vendor and artisans, music and children's activities. For more information, visit northeastmarket.org.
Solar Arts Building
711 15th Avenue NE, Minneapolis

Golden Valley

- **Tuesday, January 12 through March 1, 6-9pm**
Citizens' Police Academy. This is a community education multi-night event featuring presentations from various local government. For more information and to register, visit goldenvalleymn.gov or call 763-593-8079.
Golden Valley Public Safety Building
7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley
- **Saturday, January 16, 10am**
Fat Bike Snow Race. Winter trail riding and racing. For more information and to register, visit brookviewgolf.com.
Brookview Golf Course
200 Brookview Pkwy, Golden Valley
- **Friday, January 22, 6-8pm**
[Winter Family Festival](#). Sledding, ice skating, hayrides, hot chocolate, bonfire and marshmallow roasting. Free.
Wesley Park
8305 Wesley Drive, Golden Valley

Medicine Lake

- **Saturday, January 9 and Sunday January 10**
Plymouth Lions Midwinter Convention. For more information, visit plymouthlions.org.
Hilton Doubletree Hotel
7800 Normandale Blvd, Bloomington
- **Thursday, January 14, 6:30pm**
[Plymouth Lions Dinner Meeting](#)
Medicine Lake City Hall
10609 S Shore Drive, Medicine Lake
- **Wednesday, January 27, 7pm**
[Plymouth Lions Business Meeting](#)
Plymouth Library Conference room
15700 36th Avenue N, Plymouth

Plymouth

- **Thursday, December 31, 6-9pm**
New Year's Eve Event. Ring in the new year with ice

skating, crafts, face painting, entertainment, swimming, inflatables, food, games and open gym time. \$10 per person, if pre-registered by 4:30 p.m. December 31. \$13 at the door. No cost for children younger than age 2. To register, call 763-509-5200 or visit plymouthmn.gov.

Plymouth Ice Center

3650 Plymouth Blvd, Plymouth

- **Tuesday, January 5, 11am to noon**

[Walk with a Doc](#). Each month a different doctor will lead a 45 minute walk that is open to all Plymouth community members.

Plymouth Creek Center Fieldhouse

14800 34th Avenue N, Plymouth

- **Friday, January 22, 5-8pm**

[Skate with the Mayor](#). Free family fun and tasty treats.

Parkers Lake Warming House

County Road 6 and Niagara Lane, Plymouth

[Back to top](#)

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Unsubscribe/update preferences](#) | [Contact Hennepin](#) | [GovDelivery help](#) | [Register for Citizens Academy](#)

INTERACT WITH HENNEPIN COUNTY:



SHARE

This email was sent to anne.norris@ci.crystal.mn.us using GovDelivery, on behalf of: Hennepin County - 300 South Sixth Street - Minneapolis, MN 55487 - 612-348-3000

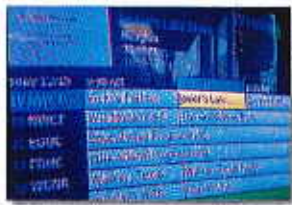


SPOTLIGHT

january • february 2016

What's new in 2016

It's a brand new year and that means new gear is in the cards for the access department! Okay, to be honest, some of the items listed were actually slated for purchase in 2015. But we guarantee that all the purchases will be well worth the wait! Here's a look at what's in store for volunteers in 2016.



Program listings on Comcast If you haven't already noticed, access programs are now listed on Comcast's TV Guide. Yup, your program titles are now listed alongside broadcast and cable programs—awesome!

Roland HD portable studio Get ready for HD multi-cam productions on location! We're purchasing one Roland VR-50HD Multi-Format AV Mixer equipped with three Panasonic AG-AC90 cameras. We've seen this unit in action thanks to **Oromo TV** and **Voice of the King**—we think it will be a great fit for our volunteers.



Studio risers/set pieces We think you'll agree that our set choices and risers have seen better days so you can look forward to new options in 2016. New risers will arrive the end of January and sets—we'll have a BIG debut when they are ready for use!



Studio lighting The plan for new lighting in our studios is still in the works but count on seeing some new LED and/or fluorescent fixtures in 2016. We'll keep you posted as we develop studio lighting designs.



HD control room redesign Plans are well underway for our new HD control room. From new equipment to new carpet, the room is going to get a total facelift! New equipment will include HD upgrades to our existing cameras and switcher, a new Compix Persona with 3D graphics capabilities, new RTS boxes and headsets, and a brand new multiviewer. **BNC**

Meet NWCT's newest Board Member

Sue Ellen Zagrabelny is NWCT's newest Board member. She took home the most votes in the November election and will take over current member **Donald Jackson's** board seat.

Sue Ellen became a member of Northwest Community Television in November 2012. She is a resident of Maple Grove and produces/hosts the monthly program, *Book Beat*. Her program features interviews with national/local authors as well as local book clubs and book enthusiasts. She also stays busy crewing on programs such as *Country Music Jubilee*, *Freethinking Forum*, *Daphne and Marry's Eclectic Interests* (no, that's not a typo).

Sue Ellen's two year term begins February 18, 2016. She is excited to represent and advocate for NWCT volunteers. Welcome, Sue Ellen! **BNC**



Outgoing Board member, Donald Jackson, and incoming Board member, Sue Ellen Zagrabelny

From the desk of Executive Director Mike Johnson

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Congratulations to **Sue Ellen Zagrabelny** from Maple Grove, the newly elected Northwest Community Television Board Member. Sue Ellen won the election that was held in November—she will be representing community producers. Sue Ellen is a familiar face around the NWCT studios as she is the producer and host of Book Beat.

Sue Ellen is a native Minnesotan who grew up just 70 miles from the Canadian border. She has lived in various parts of the country for a num-

ber of years and is happy to be back in her home state. Sue Ellen has already completed the NWCT New Board Member Orientation and is very excited to attend her first meeting in February.

NICE TO MEET YOU!

I had a great time meeting many of you at the 2015 Volunteer Gala that was held at the New Hope Cinema Cafe. I thought the event turned out very nice and it is always a fun evening for both the volunteers and staff. Thanks again everyone for all the great work you do!



NEXT COMMISSION & BOARD MEETINGS

Our next Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission and NWCT Board of Directors meetings are Thursday, February 18, at 7:30am, in Studio A. I want to remind everyone you can watch replays of our meetings on the web (nwsgcc.org) at any time. Previous meetings are there to watch as well. **MJ**

Javie's Late Show wraps for 2015

October 26, 2015, Javie's Late Show was a whole lot of laughs. The great and wonderful hosts of Polka Spotlight, **Dan** and **Yvonne Viehman**, did something they have never done before—sit for 15 minutes while I gave them questions that they didn't know how to answer. **Ci Ci Cooper**, the greatest comedian of the upper Midwest, talked about her stand-up and the work it takes to be a great comic. Last but not least, the friendliest person and with the

greatest smile, **Annalizabeth!** She filled us in with her sad background story and how she made her way up to Minnesota and the reason why she does her shows.

Their stories were made possible with the help of new members, **Veronica Lewis** and **Arnell Rucker**, along with crew stalwart and Board member, **Scott Burdette**. We couldn't have done this without them!

If you are reading this, do me a favor and take a selfie with me—people want to know your story! (Meaning, contact me at 763.278.4330 or jcedillo@nwct.org if you want to be a guest OR crew in 2016.)

As always, you can watch past episodes of Javie's Late Show on NWCT's YouTube channel—forward it, download it, share it, and have a great time watching it! **JC**



Creating a Youtube channel class

Is creating a YouTube channel for your show a New Year's resolution? Get ready to check that off your list!

We're offering a class Thursday, January 7, 11:30am-1pm, on how to create your own YouTube channel—we'll cover everything you need to know plus ways to make your channel unique to you! Having a YouTube channel promotes

worldwide viewership and can be used to further promote your show (especially important with the HD channel transition).

A light lunch will be provided so RSVP "YES" (required if attending) to 763.278.4330 or info@nwct.org. The deadline to RSVP is Monday, January 4, 11pm.

Already have a YouTube channel? Let us know the name of



your channel! In 2016, we want to start linking your show's YouTube channels on NWCT's channel. **TT**



Scott Burdette (first row, center) received our annual Volunteerism Award. Scott crewed on an impressive 120 productions! He also won the grand prize, a GoPro camera.

Volunteer Gala 2015

Thank you to all volunteers who celebrated with us at the 2015 Volunteer Gala. This year's festivities took place at the Cinema Grill in New Hope. The evening included a "fab" photo booth, a pasta dinner, a program hosted by *the one & only* Roger Larson and the grand finale—the always popular prize drawing. Staff had a great time—it gave us a chance to honor each of you for your hard work throughout the year. The videos, especially *Uptown Funk*, rocked the event! **BNC**



Dr. Patience Turtoe-Sanders (center) received NWCT's annual Programming Award. Patience produced 141 shows last year. WOW!



Top row L to R: Volunteerism Award honorees Sharon Kephart (72), Ray Dahl (50) and Jesse Stinski (47). Bottom row L to R: Programming Award honoree JCP Jesus Christ Princess (107). Not pictured: Richard Klatte (78) and John Rieschl (47). Donald Jackson and Annette Fragale (voted audience fave!) rose to the occasion by dressing as their favorite film star.



Jimmy Morris showing off his designer NWCT wear!

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

www.nwct.org
[nwctv](https://www.facebook.com/nwctv)
[nwct18](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
[nwctaccess](https://www.instagram.com/nwctaccess)
[@NWCTACCESS](https://twitter.com/NWCTACCESS)

Studio notes

PROMOTE YOUR SHOW ON CHANNELS 19 & 20

There's a new option available for promoting your show now that Channel 18 is no longer NWCT's TV Guide (part of the Comcast franchise renewal agreement/HD channel transition). Video promos that formerly played on Channel 18 can now play in between programming on Channels 19 (HD) and 20 (SD). If you're interested in creating a video promo for your show, see a studio manager for details. **TT**

STUDIO CLOSINGS

NWCT will be closed:

- © Thursday, December 31, 5pm, 2015, through Sunday, January 3, 2016

- © Friday, January 8, 8:30am-11:30am
- © Monday, January 18
- © Monday, February 15 **TT**

NEW MEMBERS ADDED YEAR-END

We're happy to have the following new members join us: **Aisha Ali, Uchenna Anyanwu, Charles Brose, Gloria Jeffers, Mary Judovsky, Abdo Kenea, Oystern Talbert, Jr., Osman Ukkume and Victor Williams.** Welcome! **TT**

SHARE YOUR PASSION 4

The last of our Share your Passion promos will be kicking off 2016! This one combines elements from the first three



Volunteer Max Yantes appeared in Share your Passion 3 and is making a repeat performance in #4!

to highlight the various things you can do here at Northwest Community Television, from learning different crew positions to producing your own show. We'd love for you to incorporate these into your shows so they get a lot of air time—if you are interested, just ask a staff member how! **NJ**



Northwest Community Television
6900 Winnetka Avenue North
Brooklyn Park MN 55428

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141 Douglas Drive North • Crystal, MN 55422-1696
Telephone: (763) 531-1000 • Fax: (763) 531-1188
Website: www.crystalmn.gov

DATE: December 30, 2015
TO: Property Owners and Residents of the 2016 - Phase 15 Twin Oaks Park Street Reconstruction Project Area
FROM: City of Crystal and Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.
WHAT: Street Reconstruction Open House, Including Rain Gardens
WHEN: Thursday, January 14, 2016; 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Crystal VFW Post 494
5222 56th Avenue North

You are cordially invited to the Crystal VFW Post 494 to review the nearly complete design details for street reconstruction near your property and neighborhood. The meeting will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Project team members, including city staff, will be available to answer your questions and to consider your ideas in refining the final design. The meeting will be informal so please come at your convenience.

Design exhibits will be displayed, including features that have changed since the last open house on October 1, 2015. We are also interested in hearing from those who have questions about sump pump service, driveway reconstruction or sanitary sewer repair/replacement.

For those interested in having a rain garden installed in the City-owned boulevard in front of your home, staff will be available to review proposed rain garden design details, property owner responsibilities and answer questions.

For reference and as the Notice of Hearing mailing to residents dated September 18, 2015 indicated, the following property owner assessment rates are proposed:

- The street assessment for single family and/or duplex lots within the improvement area is estimated to be \$6,265 per lot.
- The street assessment for all commercial and non-profit properties within the improvement area is estimated to be \$112.36 per front foot.
- The concrete curb and gutter assessment for properties currently without curb and gutter or with non-standard surmountable ("D") style curb, which is proposed to be constructed with City standard barrier ("B") style curb, which has a 6-inch high vertical face, is estimated to be \$24.06 per front foot.
- The concrete curb and gutter assessment for properties with existing city standard "B" curb and gutter to be removed and replaced is estimated to be \$12.03 per front foot. The removal and replacement of existing City standard "B" curb and gutter is necessary due to either curb deterioration, new road geometry or curb grades that are too flat.
- The concrete curb and gutter assessment for properties with existing city standard "B" curb and gutter to be reincorporated is estimated to be \$6.26 per front foot.

The Crystal City Council will most likely consider accepting the plans and specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for the project at its February 2, 2016 meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the open house. If you have any questions please contact the appropriate representative below:

Aaron Ditzler
Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.
952.912.2624
aditzler@sehinc.com

Mick Cyert
Crystal Engineering Dept.
763.531.1161
mick.cyert@crystalmn.gov

Sun Post
12-31-15



The Crystal New Hope Robbinsdale Rotary Club gathered Dec. 19 at New Hope City Hall to pack and deliver more than 100 holiday food baskets to families in need. (Sun Post staff photo by Christiaan Tarbox)

Rotarians give back

By [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

STEELE NEWS
[illegible]
[illegible]

12-31-15

SUN Post 12-31-15

Crystal and Robbinsdale's year in review

A look back at the people and events that shaped 2015

BY JOE BOWEN
SUN POST NEWSPAPERS

Below are ten notable stories that were covered in the Crystal and Robbinsdale Sun Post in 2015.

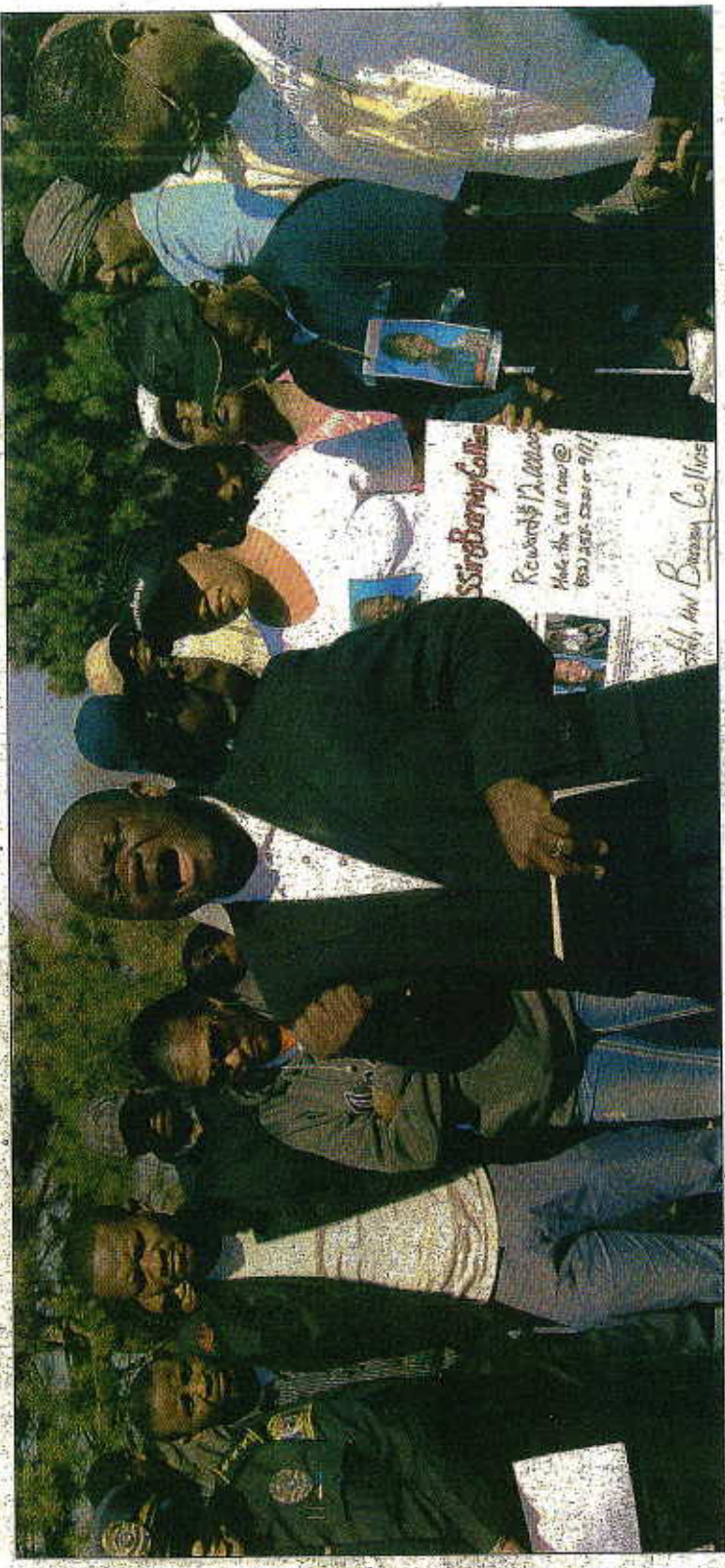
Barway Collins

Crystal 10-year old Barway Collins disappeared in March, and after three weeks of police and civilian searches, he was found dead and partially bound with duct tape in the Mississippi River.

Police uncovered footage from a van security camera showing the boy arrive at his Crystal apartment after school. In the video, Barway is heard remarking that his father and a still-unknown "uncle" were both present before he hops off his school transportation van.

Another security video showed Collins approaching the door of his apartment before turning back to the parking lot, apparently without coercion, police said.

The search for Barway honed in on his father, Crystal resident Pierre Collins



A pastor leads a group of volunteer searchers in prayer before they went to look for then-missing Crystal 10-year old Barway Collins on April 12. Later that day, a group of boy scouts would discover Collins' body in the Mississippi River. Second from right in the photo is Pierre Collins, the boy's father, who eventually confessed to killing his son in August and received a 40-year sentence. (Sun Post file photo by Joe Bowen)

lins, almost immediately after the boy was reported missing. Collins was arrested and charged with second-degree murder the day after his son's body was found.

Hennepin County officials characterized the evidence against Collins as a "strong" circumstantial case, and a grand jury later tacked on a first-degree murder charge. Police did not posit a motive, per se, but made a point of noting that the elder Collins had

some issue behind this confession," said Emmanuel Monluo, a cousin of Barway's biological mother, on the day Pierre confessed. "As far as we are concerned, there is a lot that Pierre should have said that he did not say today."

Monluo was referring to the "uncle" who Barway referenced in the van security camera footage. Crystal Police Chief Stephanie Revering and other authorities have insisted that Pierre Collins

acted alone. Revering and the Crystal Police Department itself were honored with the Hennepin County's Community Leadership Award in October.

"Investigating the murder of a child is the most difficult crime that law enforcement officers and members of the criminal justice system face," Revering said after receiving the award. "It is in these difficult times that good communities gather together

with the common goal of justice. Without question, we live in a great community."

Officer-involved shooting

Robbinsdale resident Tania Harris was shot by a Robbinsdale police officer last spring, sparking a Black Lives Matter march and rally the next day. Police said the teen charged



West Metro residents worried about the impact of a proposed freight rail "connector track" in Crystal that, they feared, could pose public safety problems due to an increase in train traffic. (Sun Post file photo by Joe Bowen)

2015

FROM PAGE 1

after a second person while wielding a knife, and stills from a police video seemed to corroborate that claim. Harris was charged with assault shortly after the shooting, pleaded guilty in October and was sentenced to probation about a month later.

A subsequent investigation by the Robbinsdale Police Department concluded that the shooter, identified a few days after the incident as Sgt. Tom Rothfork, "acted appropriately" when he shot Harris.

Black Lives Matter representative and Minneapolis NAACP President Nekima Levy-Pounds said she was concerned about the use of potentially deadly force during the incident.

"Officers have other tools at their disposal that could subdue a suspect and could de-escalate a situation," Levy-Pounds said. "The fact that deadly force would be used on an 18 year old who weighed just over 100 pounds is concerning."

Freight connection

West Metro residents from several cities were alarmed to discover that Burlington, Northern, Santa Fe, and Canadian



A still image from the squad car video of Sgt. Tom Rothfork, who shot and wounded Robbinsdale teenager Tania Harris on April 16. Police say Harris was wielding a knife as she charged after a second person, and that Rothfork shot her when she refused to drop the weapon. The incident sparked protests from Black Lives Matter activists, and Harris was charged with second-degree assault. She was later sentenced to three years of probation and 120 days in the Hennepin County workhouse. (Submitted image)

Pacific railroads were planning a "connector track" in Crystal that would allow freight trains to run through the area, with greater frequency. Railway spokespeople said the new track would alleviate train traffic congestion in the region, while a growing chorus of elected officials wondered about the impacts to public safety and quality of life near the tracks.

Amid a series of well-attended community meetings to discuss the plan, Hennepin County stepped in and bought land the railroads that would be needed to complete the track, and West Metro lawmakers helped pass legislation that would limit the railroads' powers of eminent domain. Neither BNSF or Canadian Pacific has publicly backed down from the plans, but West Metro officials seem confident that the connection won't happen in their area.

A November public service announcement provided by Canadian Pacific states that other infrastructure improvements will allow trains to travel 20 miles per hour instead of 10 miles per hour between 49th Avenue North in New Hope to Golden Hills Drive in Golden Valley along the railroad's

north-south route.

Blue Line Extension

A planned light rail line would go through the heart of Crystal and Robbinsdale, and plans for it were approved by the Metropolitan Council in December. The project would wind from downtown Minneapolis, through the north side and graze Golden Valley before heading through Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park. Project planners showed residents a "menu" of consultant-provided redevelopment ideas near the proposed stations in Crystal and Robbinsdale, and the line itself is estimated to cost almost \$1.5 billion, up from a billion dollars initially estimated in 2012.

A Crystal school changes hands

Robbinsdale Area Schools received a new school — students, building, staff and all — last summer after the West Metro Education Program's joint powers board voted to get rid of its two brick-and-mortar schools. A second school in downtown Minneapolis was similarly conveyed to Minneapolis Public Schools. The Crystal school, which houses grades four through eight of WMEP's Fine Arts

Interdisciplinary magnet program, will include newly-added Kindergarten sections next school year, and Robbinsdale Area Schools' board plans to expand the program into a K-8 magnet by the 2019-20 school year, after hearing that Minneapolis intends to contract its chunk of the FAIR program.

A new home for HIV and AIDS patients

Minneapolis-based Clare Housing opened its newest development this December in Robbinsdale. Clare Terrace sits at the intersection of 36th Avenue North and France Avenue and bills itself as a "supportive housing community" for HIV and AIDS patients in the Twin Cities.

The 36-unit apartment building will provide low-income housing and some medical services to patients who are struggling with HIV, the AIDS virus, and the myriad complications that can stem from both — including homelessness and access to care.

"This housing is literally going to save lives," said Ben Osborn, a community planning and development representative from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,



Ann Ruff, president of Clare Housing's board of directors, holds up the keys to the recently opened Clare Terrace building in Robbinsdale. The 36-unit apartment building will provide low-income housing to HIV and AIDS patients, a population for whom homelessness is a major concern. (Submitted photo)

2015

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at the building's groundbreaking ceremony in December 2014.

North Memorial dinged after labor dispute

Before, during and after members of the Minnesota Nurses Association and Service Employees International Union picketed Robbinsdale's North Memorial Hospital in June 2014, unionized hospital employees alleged hospital manage-

ment discriminated against them for their union activities. The union filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board.

The board found in September that the hospital violated several portions of the National Labor Relations Act in the days and weeks surrounding the picket, including preventing union members from having "non-disruptive union-related conversations" in the hospital's public cafeteria, "coercively surveilling" union representatives' conversations with staff, and firing SEIU member Melvin Anderson three days after the pickets.

A Robbinsdale legend passes away

Verne Gagne, a Robbinsdale native, football and wrestling star, and a seminal figure in professional wrestling, died in April at the age of 89.

Before his rise to prominence as a manager for



Verne Gagne, the legendary product of Robbinsdale High School and a towering figure in the early days of professional wrestling who passed away April 27. He was 89. (Sun post staff photo by Joe Bowen)

some of pro wrestling's biggest stars, Gagne was a hometown hero in his own right, and the litany of his accomplishments on the wrestling mat and football field includes state championships, all-American selections and Olympics appearances. He ultimately chose a pro wrestling career over a spot in the NFL.

Gagne's promotional efforts put Minnesota on the pro wrestling map, and he oversaw the rise of some of the sport's biggest stars, including Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair.

"I'll never forget his zeal to square pro wrestling as a legitimate sport," wrote longtime Minnesota journalist Jim Klobuchar.

In August, Gagne was posthumously inducted into the Minnesota Wrestling Hall of Fame's inaugural hall of fame class.

"All he ever wanted to do was wrestle," said son Greg Gagne, who accepted the hall of fame's commemorative plaque on his father's behalf.

District staff and officials said they would like the new superintendent to remain at the position for at least six years.

"In six years, I think we stand back and we see our classes in terms of high level performance coming out of all of our classes, involving all of our students," Jenkins said.

Contact Joe Bowen at joe.bowen@ecm-inc.com

A new leader for Robbinsdale Area Schools

After former Supt. Aldo Sicoli took a job at Roselle Area Schools, which contains the high school from which he graduated, Robbinsdale Area Schools dove into a deep but relatively short search for a replacement.

Enter Carlton Jenkins,

who was offered the position by the school board in July and began work later that summer. Jenkins previously worked at public schools in Michigan and Ohio, and most recently served as chief academic officer for Atlanta Public Schools. He has a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and a master of science degree in educational administration from that same school.

Jenkins told the Sun Post that his goal for the district is "high intellectual performance, looking through the lens of equity."

District staff and officials said they would like the new superintendent to remain at the position for at least six years.

"In six years, I think we stand back and we see our classes in terms of high level performance coming out of all of our classes, involving all of our students," Jenkins said.

Contact Joe Bowen at joe.bowen@ecm-inc.com



Sun Post
12-31-15

Pam Longfellow, a co-founder of Start Reading Now, accepts a check from Pat Bedell of the Crystal Business Association. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)

Start Reading Now works to grow students' bookshelves

BY BRIAN MOZEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Schools are closed up for the next couple weeks as the students enjoy their holidays and winter break. Start Reading Now, a small organization that's partnering with the nonprofit

Boulder Options, takes advantage of these breaks to allow students to continue their growth in education by reading books.

Start Reading Now was created in 2014 by co-founders Pam Longfellow and Kevin Terrell. The goal for the Start Reading Now is to provide books for first through third grade students living in low-income households that could use more books during summer and winter breaks. That book availability helps students stay at a high reading level.

"Data shows that low-income students have less than one book in their home to read," Longfellow said. "They aren't sur-

rounded by reading books, and that's what we're hoping to change with this organization."

The program is simple. Students in those three grades come to a book fair in June that's hosted in multiple locations across Minneapolis and choose 10 books. Start Reading Now uses a \$50 voucher for each student to pay for every book that comes to the checkout line.

Longfellow and Terrell have full time jobs other than Start Reading Now, so they rely and appreciate the partnerships they've made with Scholastic Books and the Minneapolis Public Schools. Scholastic Books puts on the book fairs and

provides the books for each one of the book fairs.

"The good thing about Scholastic is they know the school districts. They know the reading level of the children and can put a book fair together for the children," Longfellow said. "We also work very closely with the Minneapolis Public Schools to put on about five book fairs every summer."

Longfellow is a mother for four children and has experience within the Minneapolis Public School, so she decided to start her work there. She would love to see the organization grow and expand to other school districts.

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Reading

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Start Reading Now has started becoming more familiar with the city of Crystal. One of the group's board members, Gong Yun, is on the Crystal Business Association and has been trying to expand to other cities like Crystal and Robbinsdale.

"The growth goal for our company is to scale more citywide and get into more school districts," Longfel-

low said.

The other goal for Start Reading Now is to get more quantitative data instead of just qualitative. Longfellow and Terrell want to see the actual numbers on how their organization is helping students in the school districts on closing the achievement gap or improving their reading scores.

Since the organization is new, those numbers have been established. Longfellow said that Start Reading Now is receiving help from a couple professors at the University of St. Thomas to

help build data models and start to see the numbers at a larger scale.

Start Reading Now has applied to become a formal organization, but as of right now, they are partnered with 501(c)3 Boulder Options, which is a youth mentoring program. Longfellow is looking forward to establishing the group and growing with many school districts around the Twin Cities metro.

"We are fortunate to receive some foundation donations to become a citywide company," Longfellow

said. "We try to keep the program as simple as we can to benefit the students and overall accomplish the goal of continuing their education."

If you would like to donate to Start Reading Now, 100 percent of the donations made go to buying books for the children. Donations can be made at their website at startreadingnow.org.

Brian Mozey is a former intern at Sun Newspapers and current student at Iowa State University.

*Please join us for the
Swearing In Ceremony of*

*Police Officer Jon Kurtz
Police Officer Andy Robles
Sergeant Adam Harrer
Lieutenant Pete Underthun
Deputy Chief Doug Leslin*

On Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Crystal City Hall

4141 Douglas Drive

Crystal, MN 55422

*Cake and coffee reception in the
Community Room at 6:30 p.m.*

*Followed by the ceremony in
the Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.*